

Brad Jackson /R4/USEPA/US
05/24/2005 11:41 AM

To Lu_Grimm@doh.state.fl.us
cc bill_passetti@doh.state.fl.us
bcc
Subject Fw: The phosphate connection

Lu:

I got a copy of the news article via Carl Blair, ATSDR, and was curious how Rep. Harris got involved. Have you heard of any briefings by the State on the phosphate issues?

Brad

----- Forwarded by Brad Jackson/R4/USEPA/US on 05/24/2005 11:26 AM -----

Carl Blair/R4/USEPA/US
05/24/2005 11:12 AM

To Brad Jackson/R4/USEPA/US@EPA
cc
Subject Fw: The phosphate connection

FYI!

----- Forwarded by Carl Blair/R4/USEPA/US on 05/24/2005 11:10 AM -----



Lu_Grimm@doh.state.fl.us
05/24/2005 10:13 AM

To Carl Blair/R4/USEPA/US@EPA
cc
Subject FW: The phosphate connection

From: One of the Grimms [mailto:luada@earthlink.net]

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 6:32 AM

To: Grimm, Eric; Bland, Susan A; Merchant, E Randy; Malaret, Nancy M; Grimm, Lu S; Garrett, Connie; Lightbourn, Alrena V; Waltman, Elise L; Tull, Elizabeth D; Linda Clemens; Brown, Cicely H; Donahue, Charles R; Johnson, David R; Sekerke, Joe; Becker, Alan J

Cc: Dee Williamson; Bob Safay; Jennifer Freed; Shaun Crawford; Cheryl Browder; Hodges, Lindsay A

Subject: The phosphate connection

Sarasota Herald-Tribune, May 24, 2005

The phosphate connection

Charlotte County and Idaho group share need for a mining study

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest are



thousands of miles apart, but they face a common threat that warrants congressional intervention.

This week, Charlotte County officials announced that they're joining forces with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition to try to attract national attention to the growing risks posed by phosphate mining.

As Charlotte County Commissioner Adam Cummings points out in a guest column on this page, it's an unusual alliance, but one born of necessity.

Cummings and others are fighting the expansion of strip-mining operations in the watershed of the Peace River, a crucial source of drinking water for our region and a major tributary of Charlotte Harbor.

Meanwhile, environmentalists, sportsmen and businesses in the Greater Yellowstone Coalition are trying to prevent the expansion of open-pit phosphate mining in southeast Idaho near Yellowstone National Park.

Although the two battles are far apart, they share a common history -- lax regulations that have allowed companies to pollute, mar the landscape and cause significant damage to fish and wildlife.

The environment isn't the only concern. As Cummings notes, an escalation of mining operations now could force the United States in the decades ahead to rely on foreign supplies of phosphate ore.

At the moment, Florida provides about 75 percent of the U.S. supply of phosphate, a key ingredient in the production of fertilizer. Idaho provides about 12 percent, primarily from public lands.

Phosphate reserves in both states are dwindling, due in part to exports to China and other countries.

Once our domestic supply is tapped out, the U.S. agriculture industry will become dependent on foreign sources, including Morocco, where the state-owned mining industry sits on close to 50 percent of the world's reserves. The parallels to our current troubles with oil are difficult to ignore.

Nearly 30 years have passed since federal officials conducted a full-scale review of the environmental and economic impact of phosphate mining in Florida.

A new study is needed to assess the potential effect of the industry's plans on the environment and the long-term viability of U.S. agriculture.

It's time for Florida's delegation in Congress to join Rep. Katherine Harris, R-Longboat Key, in her push for federal funding for a comprehensive look at the

impact of phosphate mining operations -- from here to Idaho.